

Candidate 2 evidence

There's No Place Like Home School...

Learning intention: to be able to enjoy learning in a non-pressurised environment.

Is the stereotypical formal education really the only way to a child's success? Our culture is so tangled in the acceptance of stereotypes. People in modern day society should be open-minded and accept different approaches to education. Many so-called educational experts claim home schooling is a selfish, substandard form of learning. I – on the other hand – disagree. Home schooling widens the opportunity for children to gain an education at a pace and using a method that suits them. Is this a harmful opinion?

Stress, pressure, anxiety. These are the feelings children will rarely experience when learning in the comfort and familiarity of home. Every single human being in this universe deserves the right to have freedom. School is a set structure where each reluctant pupil must follow procedures from bell to bell no matter their opinion. Home schooling allows children to experience a real feeling of freedom, with their lives not revolving around school hours, homework, work overload and continuous commands. Children can strive to live their lives according to what works for them by experiencing a way of learning which is enjoyable, motivating and thrilling. As a result of this educational approach, children are healthier, happier and therefore hardworking. Sounds like the perfect qualities to a successful learner surely. It has been proven that 55% of teenagers who are home schooled get the optimal amount of sleep compared to only 24.5% of teenagers who attend public and private schools.[1] This emphatically proves the negative impact school can have on those individuals' health. So the question is; why has school become the centre of the educational community? Questions remain unanswered (just like everyday questions in learning). In a study carried out by Dr. Brian D. Ray, President of the National Home Education Research Institute in the USA, he contacted respondents who had been home schooled children. It was reported that 59% said that they were very happy with life whilst being educated at home (in comparison to the general U.S. population who had been educated in a formal school environment, at 27.6%).[2] It has been a battle for parents to fight for their children to be content with life and this shows that home schooling may very well be a solution to help achieve this goal.

A key element which home schooling scores highly on, is that education is specific to the child (no waiting for classmates to catch up on your mastered work, nor any of this falling behind in class). Homeschooling allows children to expand their learning due to their personal and educational needs being recognised. But in a school environment children will always have to proceed at the same pace as their classmates. Why? Every single person works differently and thinks differently – so how does that make it acceptable to all work in the same manner? Learning at home overcomes this issue. The home educator has the opportunity to assess their learner's strengths, weaknesses and learning styles with the addition of identifying their personal interests in life. A Canadian Study which was reported in The Canadian Journal of Behavioural Health followed an investigation onto the intelligence of children taught at home as opposed to those at school. The investigation covered 74 willing young candidates, with 37 attending public school and 37 being home

schooled. The results stated that "while public school kids were tested at grade levels, home schooled children are far above grade level. Generally, home schooled children would perform at least half a grade ahead when it came to math and two grades ahead when it came to reading." [3]

Let us consider the benefits which home schooling brings. Motivation. This is the key that children can grasp as they learn at the pace that suits them. Children are more willing to put consistent effort into learning that is tailored to them. An experimental study was carried out in America when a group of pupils and teachers at Kindergarten up to grade three were appointed at random to three types of class within the school: a small class (merely being 17 pupils), a regular class and finally a large class with a teacher-aide. It was stated that "In brief, the researchers found that in both reading and maths, pupils in small classes performed significantly better than pupils in regular classes" [4] Just take a second to imagine the statistics on one to one. Should home schooling therefore not be better for children's education?

Every single person's life revolves around experience and despite objector's views, home schooling enables children to learn through everyday experiences in different environments rather than just a formal school setting. They can learn maths and arithmetic during shopping trips, learn about nature and geography through walks in the park and countryside and beach exploration, learn about history through visits to castles and other places of historic interest and learn about caring for others through visits to sick or disabled relatives and friends in their homes or hospitals. There are those people who would object to this and point to the fact that children who attend school gain these experiences as well. But those children are limited and always have that timescale. Life experiences are central to home school education and will make children learn to grow up with the benefit of these experiences. Furthermore according to a home school blog, statistics for adults who were home schooled show that 88% say home schooling did not limit educational opportunities and furthermore 92% state that homeschooling was an advantage to them as an adult. [5] Home schooling opportunities may be the road to success.

Sure enough, school does allow children to socialise daily with members of the same species – groupings being of age, personality and in the expected way. The core of objections to home schooling is that it permanently inhibits the child's social skills. Those people protest that home educated children are limited in their interaction with children their own age. This argument may very well be true, but this leads to the truth. The truth is that these *equal* children learn to socialize with people, people of all ages. Those meaningless claims that home schooled children are locked away behind closed doors 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, are false. The doors are wide open. Dr. Brian D. Ray recorded that home schooled students' are on average involved in outside activities at 5.2 activities per child compared to children educated in a formal school environment and such activities include: volunteer work, sports and music classes. [6] School staff go on and on at innocent young pupils to get involved in 'extracurricular activities' in order for them to be successful with life. Well, home schooled children may be that significant leap ahead.

I very much support the approach to home schooling. As one who was once home schooled through to primary 6, I understand the qualities that home schooling brings. It's not just

about learning facts to make you intelligent, but it's the little puzzles in life that can make you more successful. Being home schooled not only allowed me to learn in a place where I was comfortable and safe, but it also allowed me to appreciate the little solutions to huge problems. A personal example is that I was able to help care for my Grandpa while he asked me problems to maths questions, rather than just reading about 'nursing' in books behind a desk and being forced to imagine what it would be like in a real life situation.

There is no place like home. No place like home schooling, to become an intelligent individual.

Word count: 1,274 words

Acknowledgements:

[1] – www.thehomeschoolshow.net/2013/03/13/article-better-sleep-with-homeschooling

[2] - <http://www.brighthubeducation.com/homeschool-methodologies/87123-what-do-the-statistics-say-about-homeschooling>

[3] - <http://www.brighthubeducation.com/homeschool-methodologies/126403-why-homeschooled-kids-are-smarter>

[4] - http://www.classsizeresearch.org.uk/cs_psychology

[5]- <http://lindyhomeschool.blogspot.co.uk/2012/08/why-would-anyone-homeschool>

[6]- <http://ontariohomeschool.org/admissionpolicies>